



CITY OF EL MONTE

Economic Development Department Planning Division

COMMERCIAL CANNABIS MORATORIUM

Effective Date: July 19, 2016 (per City Council Ordinance No. 2889)

Expiration Date: July 19, 2018

Background: In 2014, the City Council banned cannabis dispensaries and cultivation. On July 19, 2016, the City Council reinforced its existing bans on cannabis dispensaries and cultivation. The Council also adopted a temporary moratorium on the balance of “commercial cannabis activities”.

The moratorium will give staff time to assess sensitive commercial cannabis activities before such uses are contemplated for local regulation, although the City Council retains the right to subsequently ban any or all commercial cannabis activity.

The Moratorium prohibits the following: “Commercial cannabis activities” are defined by the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) as the cultivation, possession, manufacture, processing, storing, laboratory testing, labeling, transporting or distribution of a medical cannabis or medical cannabis product.

ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES (CHECK CASHING) MORATORIUM

Effective Date: October 4, 2015 (per City Council Ordinance No. 2869)

Expiration Date: October 4, 2016 (may be extended by the City Council to October 4, 2018)

Background: The challenges faced by low-income consumers have resulted in a two-tiered system of financial service. Banks are used by some consumers for checking and loans, while others who do not use banks face financial challenges and are often targeted by alternatives businesses that charge comparatively higher rates and fees for such services than banks typically charge.

The moratorium will give staff time to research alternative financial services (AFS) businesses. The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently does not adequately regulate such AFS businesses with respect to concerns such as economics, compatibility of uses, aesthetics and possible operational conditions.

The Moratorium prohibits the following: AFS businesses include payday loans, check cashing, vehicle title loans and pawn shops.